



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Environmental Protection: Mississippi River, Guttenberg Waterfowl Ponds, Iowa



Guttenberg Waterfowl Ponds at Lock and Dam 10, Guttenberg, Iowa

Contact

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Location/Description

Part of the Corps' Environmental Management Program (EMP), the site is located below the Lock and Dam 10 dike and spillway near Guttenberg, Iowa. The site lies within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. A group of fish-rearing ponds lying below the Lock and Dam 10 dike was abandoned in 1971. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) proposed to manage the water levels in these ponds as moist soil impoundments for food production for migratory waterfowl. However, the ponds lacked adequate water supply and drainage facilities for water-level control. The project provided for the control of water levels in the three existing ponds, totaling about 35 acres. Water is supplied via a gated conduit from the existing dam 10 spillway to the ponds. Ditching within the ponds provided drainage to an outlet structure for discharge into the spillway channel. An additional water control structure in one of the ponds provides a water supply to Big Pond Slough to permit limited water level control in Big Pond for waterfowl food production. The project will increase vegetation coverage and plant species diversity. The ponds provide attractive habitat to wading birds, rails, snipe, and passerines. Improved water-level control of Big Pond also provides greater fish management opportunities.

Status

A construction contract was awarded in September 1989 and the habitat portion of the project was completed in November 1989. A water supply pipe was installed in the dam 10 spillway in the spring of 1990, making the project fully operational in 1991. Soon thereafter, the ponds were modified and upgraded to improve their operation as part of the Bussey Lake habitat project. They were operational again in 1997. The project has been transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for operation and maintenance.

Authority

The Guttenberg Waterfowl Ponds Habitat Project was planned under the authority of the Upper Mississippi River System - EMP and constructed in accordance with a Definite Project Report dated July 1988. The EMP was authorized by Section 1103 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986 and reauthorized by WRDA 1999.

The project was planned and designed as part of a cooperative effort among the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Iowa DNR, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and local interests.

Fiscal

Project design and construction costs were 100 percent federal because the project is located on national wildlife refuge lands. Operation and maintenance costs are 100 percent federal (a responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

Federal cost	\$327,000
Non-federal cost	\$0
Total cost	\$327,000